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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/500,924
Applicant : BRAUN et al.
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Examiner : A. Evans

Docket No. : 2732-126
Customer No. : 06449
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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Director of the United States Patent
and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to a Restriction Requirement dated June 17, 2005, Applicants elect group I, claims 1 and 5-13, with traverse.

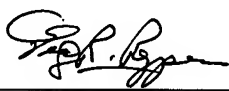
It is respectfully submitted that the standards of PCT Rule 13 have been improperly applied in the restriction requirement.

Group I, claims 1 and 5-13 are drawn to a steel intaglio printing plate. These claims fulfill the requirements of unity of invention at least with respect to claim 19 (group IV) drawn to a method for producing a steel intaglio printing plate as defined in claim 1.

PCT Rule 13.2 states that "the requirement of unity of invention referred to in Rule 13.1 shall be fulfilled...when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features. The expression 'special technical features' shall mean those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art."

With respect to groups I and IV, a “special technical feature” which links these groups includes the embossed structures closest to the printing plate surface which are located 20 to 100 microns below the surface. Additionally, this “special technical feature” is shared by the claims of group II (claims 2-4) and group III (claims 14-18 and 20), which also should be examined with group I.

Respectfully submitted,

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